**COPY**

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 11, 13-14, 17, 19, 21, 25, 28, and 31 will be amended, and claims 6-7, 27, and 32-35 will be canceled. Thus, claims 1-5, 8-26, and 28-31 will remain pending. The amendments were made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the originally filed claims in this and other applications. No new matter has been added. Support for the limitations added to claim 1, for example, may be found in the originally filed specification at page 24, lines 15-26. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,336,094 ("Ferguson") in view of the publication "Design and Implementation of an Access Control Processor for XML Documents" ("Damiani") and further in view of US Patent No. 6,735,585 ("Black").

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that an automatically determined entitlement rule is evaluated, "before a content selection tag associated with a requesting content reader is determined." In particular, the automatically determined entitlement rule is evaluated "to generate an entitlement vector that indicates which ... content readers will be able to access information associated with [a] financial document."

By way of example, an earnings report for XYZ Corp. might be received and automatically analyzed to determine an appropriate entitlement rule (*e.g.*, the rule might state that only supervisors in an investment department are allowed to view the report). This rule may then be evaluated for all employees to create an entitlement vector (with each bit in the vector indicating whether or not an employee associated with that bit should be allowed to view the report). Subsequently, a particular employee submits a content selection tag indicating that she wants to view all documents associated with XYZ Corp. The previously created entitlement vector could then be used to determine whether or not the earnings report will be provided to the employee.

The cited references do not disclose such a feature. In particular, Ferguson and Black do not disclose that some users will be unable to access information. Applicants note that the

discussion of "restricted" information at, for example, Ferguson col. 9, line 61 to col. 10, line 2 does not mean that users cannot access information. Rather, the line items may be "restricted" such that associated values are always, for example, subtracted from a subtotal (and never added).
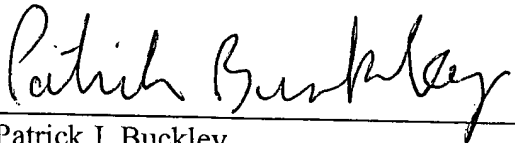
Damiani likewise does not disclose that an automatically generated entitlement rule is, as recited in the pending claims, evaluated to create an entitlement vector that indicates which content readers are allowed to access a document. Rather, the Document Object Model discussed at page 11, section 5.2 ("Tree Labeling") is applied after a document has been requested (*e.g.*, as described in section 5.1).

## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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